Dreams from My Father Graphic Novella

Your assignment is to work with your group to create a graphic novella (mini-novel or short story) that depicts the character transformation of Barack H. Obama that takes places through his life experiences. You will create TWO CAPTIONS for each scene: The upper caption will be text from Dreams from My Father and the lower caption will be connected poetry lines from one Langston Hughes poem that your group selects.

In both illustrated scenes, each group member must PARAPHRASE the original text or scene as a SPEECH BUBBLE and write some original INTERNAL MONOLOGUE as a THOUGHT BUBBLE for the novella. This 100-point project will require you to complete group and individual tasks.

Brainstorming Tasks:

* Review the poems in the Langston Hughes packet and select one, as a group, that you understand and believe will support your project.
* Identify several important scenes in which Obama has a KEY EXPERIENCE that TRANSFORMS his character.
* This scene must relate and connect to the selected poem of Langston Hughes.
* Each group member should have a different scene from Dreams from My Father.
* Your scenes should illustrate how the experience shaped Barack Obama’s character and identity in Dreams from My Father.
* Each scene should relate to Obama’s life and experiences in Hawaii or Indonesia.

Individual tasks:

* Use **2-3 panels** to depict your scene in two to three pages.
* **Hand-draw illustrations** that use **color** to depict mood and conflict.
* The scene should also include **setting details**.
* EACH PAGE must include **ONE speech bubble** (that **paraphrases** or gives s summary based on the text).
* EACH PAGE must include **ONE thought bubble that reveals INTERNAL MONOLOGUE (original language** that you write**)** to show what Obama is really thinking.
* Use the lines from the **Dreams** text and the lines from a Hughes poem to devise **TWO CAPTIONS** that match or highlight the transformation. The captions MUST relate to character development, and should include plot, setting, or topics that highlight the experience that changes Obama and marks his life. You need to consider what lessons Obama learned and convey them through the visuals, text, and poetry.

Group tasks:

* Create a **Cover Page** for the novel that includes a **thematic or figurative title** that intrigues your reader (not a literal title), and a **symbolic illustration** that represents the lesson that Obama learns. Use the symbol to highlight the challenges that Obama faces or how he manages the conflict.
* Organize your events in a logical sequence to create a short story about character transformation that is easy for readers to follow.
* Work together with a spirit of collaboration so that all members of the group are encouraged to participate and share their ideas

You will need:

Pencil and eraser for first draft

Pen, colored pencils, and/or fine-tipped markers for final draft

Ruler

Copy of Dreams from My Father

Packet of Langston Hughes poems

We will supply:

8½ x 11 white paper

Required templates

Project rubric

**CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION SCENES** (each person must illustrate a before/after scene)

* In the **top panel,** write a Narrative Voice (a quote by or about Obama or narration that is taken directly from the Dreams text).
* In **the middle panel**, use (stick) figures and other illustrations to draw the scene that you relate to the memoir and poem. Be sure to include ample setting information.
* In the **middle panel**, incorporate a speech bubble and a thought bubble (for internalmonologue) into thescene.
* In the **bottom panel,** select thematic lines from a Langston Hughes poem that connect to theObama text.

Use these templates to create a rough draft of your sketches:

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| Quote from memoir  (Obama, p. ) |
|  |
| Lines from poem. |
| Quotes from memoir. |
|  |
| Lines from poem. |
| Quote from memoir. |
|  |
| Lines from poem. |

**COVER PAGE REQUIREMENTS**

As a group, brainstorm an **effective title** -- one that provokes the reader and makes him or her think. Come up with 20 possible titles for your graphic novel that relate to theme, make the reader acknowledge some aspect of the character's transformation, is catchy and relevant. Remember that you will have to write some "bloopers "ones in order to come up with a "winner." Look through the different scenes that your group has selected and start to discuss common themes.

**Dos:**

* Strike the right tone; if the transformation does not show persona growth, the tone should not be light-hearted and humorous, it should be somber or sober.
* Use language that is true to the text and relates to the transformation.
* Think of common phrases, movie titles, song lyrics that relate to your character traits.

**Don'ts:**

* Avoid literal titles like "Obama Learns About Race" or "The Return of Obama Senior”
* Do not use the project assignment as the title: "The Barack Obama Graphic Character Novella."

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You will also need a **SYMBOLIC ILLUSTRATION**. In literature a SYMBOL is defined as a concrete object that is used to represent different layers of meaning. It can represent or stand for ideas beyond its literal meaning. For example, the flag of the United States of America is a symbol for democracy, freedom, independence and the American Dream. The sun can represent a new start, a fresh beginning or the end of a previous period.

DRAW TWO SYMBOLS THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE RELATED TO THE SCENES and POEM THAT YOUR GROUP SELECTED. Afterwards, share them with your group and vote on the best symbol to include on your cover page.

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YOU SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE A **BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOL** AND STATE HOW IT IS CONNECTED TO THE MEMOIR AND THE POEM.

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FINALLY, THE **NAMES OF ALL AUTHORS** SHOULD BE ON THE FRONT OF THE COVER IN CHRONOLOGICAL (NOT ALPHABETICAL ORDER) AND EACH ARTIST SHOULD ALSO SIGN HIS OR HER NAME AT THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF EACH SCENE.

Use this area to draw a sketch of your COVER PAGE.

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| By: |
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